

Ex-teen throbs David and Shaun Cassidy—now drawing swooning fans on Broadway—took different routes to happiness ■ by Tim Allis



OUTSIDE THE STAGE DOOR A CROWD OF A hundred or so—mostly women, mostly thirtysomething—shuffles in determined anticipation, clutching *Playbills*, wielding cameras, waving flowers. The door opens, two men emerge, and a squeal ripples through the fans. It's *them!* Engulfed, the pair are deluged with programs and records to sign and smothered in giddy affection. "They're so cute!" a woman cries. "They're gorgeous!" corrects her friend. The men smile and sign and mumble their thanks.

"David!" hollers someone.

"Shaun!" yells another.

"Daaavid!"

Excuse us, but what decade is this?

Or: Have a Nice Flashback. After all, David and Shaun Cassidy, the former teen idols who sold out arenas and shattered teenybopper hearts in the '70s, have been, for the most part, out of the public's gaze ever since. David—who starred on *The Partridge Family* (1970-74) and went on to sell some 15 million records, turning "I Think I Love You" into a national pubescent anthem—and Shaun, his half brother, who made his mark as a top-selling pop crooner and as one of TV's Hardy Boys, have been superseded by new dreamboats on the block. But this past summer, David resurfaced when cable's Nick at Nite began rerunning *The Partridge Family*. (For what happened to the other young family members, see page 73.) And now, outside Manhattan's Music Box theater, where they are starring with Petula Clark in the Broadway musical *Blood Brothers*, they can still spark a small riot. "It's a little embarrassing," says David. "But very gratifying, to see what an effect you had on people."

Backstage, on another afternoon, Shaun, 35, greets David, 43, with a shoulder squeeze and a "Hey, bro," even though it has been less than 24 hours since their last curtain call—a standing ovation, as always, after portraying star-crossed English twins separated at birth. Although the Cassidy's still possess the boyish looks that launched millions of dollars worth of lunch boxes, posters and even plastic guitars, nowadays they are family men

◀ "I've longed to show people what I can really do," says David (greeting admirers with Shaun outside the theater).